

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



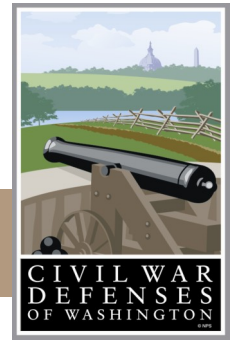
Fort Marcy	Fort Reno	Battleground	Fort Slocum	Fort Mahan	Fort Davis	Battery Carroll
Battery Kemble	Fort DeRussy	National	Fort Totten	Fort Chaplin	Fort Stanton	Fort Greble
Fort Bayard	Fort Stevens	Cemetery	Fort Bunker Hill	Fort Dupont	Fort Ricketts	Fort Foote

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fall 2010

Issue 3

www.nps.gov/cwdw



An old idea with a green future: The Potomac Heritage Trail releases a new brochure



by: **Donald E. Briggs, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage Trail**

Around and within Washington, D.C., a system of forts and fortifications is one legacy of the Civil War: The defenses were located on the natural high points around the city and provided sweeping views of the lands beyond. Proposed uses for and connections among these areas, primarily as parklands, are another chapter in the evolving history of the fortifications. After the war, some lands were reclaimed by previous landowners while others remained in public ownership. Since 1902, various plans have proposed a "Fort Drive," a scenic "ring road" or parkway; a "Greenway" trail; a 23-mile hiking and bicycling trail; and a route for foot travel on existing trails and sidewalks. A recent plan for the city's parklands, completed in 2009 by National Capital Planning Commission, the District of Columbia, and the National Park Service (NPS), articulates the opportunity to link the "Fort Circle



Parks." In support of this plan, the NPS designated the Civil War Defenses of Washington as a segment of the developing Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHT), authorized in a 1983 amendment to the National Trails System Act. Lesser known than the Appalachian National Scenic Trail--referred to by many as simply the "AT"--the PHT is a growing network of locally managed and recognized trails, including the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Towpath; the Mount Vernon Trail; the Alexandria Heritage Trail; and a bicycling route in southern Maryland between Oxon Cove Park and Point Lookout. Within the trail network, a self guided hiking route connecting the Civil War Defenses of Washington will complete

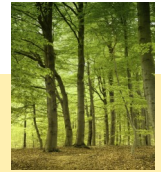
a gap in the physical network as well as our understanding of the Civil War. For copies of a new brochure on the hiking route and a complementary bicycling route, funded with partial support from the Connect Trails to Parks Program, a map is also available at

<http://www.nps.gov/pohe/planyourvisit/maps.htm>.

More information:

www.nps.gov/pohe

www.nps.gov/cwdw



Featured Fort: Fort Bayard

Constructed in 1861 and situated to protect the approach along river road. Fort Bayard was known as fort elliptic (due to its shape) or Fort Soapstone (due to the building material). The fort became Fort Bayard sometime in 1863 and was named after brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, who was wounded and later died in fighting around Fredericksburg in December of 1862.

Fort Bayard was linked to Fort Simmons to the west by 775 yards west and Fort Reno 1,250 yards east by rifle pits. In June 1864 Fort Bayard fended off John McCausland's Confederate Calvary as they tested the defense of Washington, DC.

Directions: Fort Bayard is located at the 4600 block of River Road in Northwest Washington DC.



Sentinel of Freedom: Fort Foote through the Ages

Written by: **Mark Maloy, Park Ranger, Fort Dupont**

From 1824 to 1861 Fort Washington was the only line of defense for the capital of the United States. Originally constructed in 1809 as Fort Warburton it was established to protect Washington from a naval invasion. With the invention of new and improved artillery, ironclad ships, and an enemy numbering in hundreds of thousands situated just across the Potomac River, it became clear that better seacoast defenses would be necessary. In 1863, Fort Foote was built and considered the "model" earthwork fort and the future of seacoast defense. President Lincoln and his staff visited the fort and watched the firing of the brand new 15 inch Rodman guns; which fired a 434 pound cannon ball accurately over 3 miles these guns could be fired every 4 minutes by a well drilled crew. Fort Foote along with Battery Rodgers prevented any



Rodman Gun in a depression carriage. LOC collection

attack of Confederate ironclads coming up the Potomac.

With the end of the Civil War most of the forts protecting Washington were abandoned with the exception of Fort Foote, which was in use until 1878. In the post Civil War period new technology was used at Fort Foote including the new depression carriage. Designed by Rufus King, it allowed the crew to load the gun without having to expose themselves to the

The National Park Service Awarded a \$50,000 grant

Through the support of National Park Foundation a grant of \$50,000, from Coca-Cola, was awarded to the Civil War Defenses of Washington to buy equipment and improve the Hiker Biker Trail that runs through 7 miles of southeastern Washington. The fund will also help launch a trail ambassador program in the coming months. To Learn more about the National Park Foundation visit their website

<http://www.nationalparks.org/>

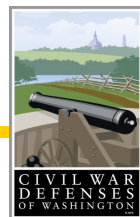
Fall 2010 CWDW Newsletter

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Contributors: Mark Maloy, Alexa Viets, Kevin F. Barry, Donald E.

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Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



October 2010

All NPS events are **Free**.
For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 11AM Arlington House	7	8	9
10 1PM Ft. Foote	11	12	13	14	15	16 10AM Ft. Dupont 7PM Arlington House
17 1PM Ft. Stevens	18	19	20 11AM Arlington House	21	22	23 10 AM Ft. Stanton Noon Ft. Stanton
24 1PM Ft. DeRussy	25	26	27	28	29	30 10AM Anacostia Museum Noon Ft. Dupont
31 1PM Ft. Dupont						

November 2010



Ranger Talk
1 hour



Ranger led
Hike 1 hour



Volunteer
Opportunity



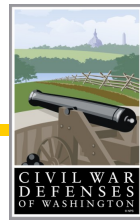
Bike Ride 2 hours
(bring your own bike)



Community
event

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 11AM Arlington House	4	5	6 11AM Ft. DuRussy. Noon Ft. Dupont 2PM Ft Stevens.
7 1PM Ft. Dupont	8	9	10	11	12	13 Noon Ft. Mahan All day Ft Reno
14 1PM Ft. Stevens	15	16	17 11AM Arlington House	18	19	20 10 AM Ft. Chaplin Noon Ft. Chaplin
21 1PM Ft. Totten	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 1PM Ft. Foote	29	30				

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



December 2010

All NPS events are **Free**.
For more info call 202-426-7723

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11AM Arlington House	2	3	4 10 AM Ft. Marcy 11AM Ft. DeRussy 2PM Ft. Stevens
5 1PM Ft. Greble	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 1PM Ft. DeRussy	13	14	15 11AM Arlington House	16	17	18
19 1PM Ft. Davis	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Civil War Defenses of Washington

Fall Events

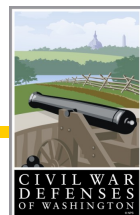
All events are free and open to the public.

October

-  **Wed. October 6 11AM-2PM, Arlington House** (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): Rangers from the Civil War Defenses of Washington will be at Arlington House to Explain the Strategic Importance of Arlington House during the Civil War. Parking Available at Arlington National Cemetery Visitor Center.
-  **Sun. October 10: 1 PM, Fort Foote Park** (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744): How does Fort Foote relate to Baltimore, San Francisco, and South Carolina?! Learn the role of Fort Foote and other regional forts in the nationwide network of seacoast fortification. Parking lot on site.
-  **Sat. October 16: 10 AM, Ft Dupont Activity Center:** Bike Hike, learn about DC's defenses and see how land that once defended the nation's capital is now natural forest areas. Parking lot on site.
-  **Sat. October 16: 7PM Arlington House** (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): Would you vote for Abraham Lincoln: The election of 1860. Living History and exhibits. Parking available on site.
-  **Sun. October 17: 1 PM, Fort Stevens** (13th and Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC 20011): **The Battle of Fort Stevens** Join a ranger led tour that focuses on who the soldiers were who fought in the battle both North and South. Parking on street.
-  **Wed. October 20 11AM-2PM, Arlington House** (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): See October 6 event.
-  **Sat. October 23: 10 AM, Fort Stanton** (1800 Erie St SE, Washington, DC 20020): Come experience the season and see the colors of the fall leaves on a ranger led nature hike where you will be able to see the natural landscape. Parking on street.
-  **Sat. October 23: 10 Noon, Fort Stanton** (1800 Erie St SE, Washington, DC 20020): The Trail Ambassadors will be working on the Hiker Biker trail between Fort Stanton and Fort Davis; Parking on street.
-  **Sun. October 24: 1 PM, Fort DeRussy** (5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, DC, 20015): How the Forts Shaped Washington, DC – learn how the forts laid the groundwork for the growth of the city. Parking lot on site.
-  **Sat. October 30: 10 AM, meet at Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum :** Bike Hike, come and learn how the forts around Washington formed a shield around the city during the Civil War. Parking available on street.
-  **Sat. October 30: Noon, Fort Dupont** (Fort Dupont Drive, Washington, DC 20020): The Trail Ambassadors will be working on the Hiker Biker trail between Fort DuPont and Fort Chaplin; Parking lot on site.
-  **Sun. October 31: 1 PM, Fort Dupont Earthworks** (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20019): Grisly Tales from Civil War Washington. On Halloween, come and learn about medicine during the Civil War at the different forts around Washington. Not for those with a weak stomach. Parking lot on site.

(Continued as **Events** on page 4)

Civil War Defenses of Washington NEWSLETTER



(Events continued from page 3)

November



Wed. November 3 11AM-2PM, Arlington House (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): see October 6 event.



Sat. November 6: 11AM Fort DeRussy Hike Discover what life was like for Union soldiers encamped at historic Fort DeRussy and learn what role this fort played to defend Washington, DC during a Confederate attack in 1864. and enjoy a 1 mile round trip hike to the fort. Ages 8 +. Meet at the Rock Creek Park Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW)



Sat. November 6: Noon Fort Dupont Earthworks (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20020): The Trail Ambassadors will be working on the Hiker Biker trail between Fort DuPont and Fort Davis; Parking lot on site.



Sat. November 6: 2PM Fort Stevens. Explore the events that occurred during the summer of 1864, which led to the battle that saved Washington. Walk among the earthworks of Fort Stevens and experience the lives of the men that defended the Capitol. Meet at Rock Creek Park Nature Center (5200 Glover Rd NW)



Sun. November 7: 1 PM, Fort Dupont Earthworks (4160 Alabama Ave SE, Washington, DC 20019): A House Divided: Come to an original Civil War fort and learn about the momentous election of 1860 on the Sesquicentennial of this country's most controversial president, Abraham Lincoln. Parking lot on site.



Sat. November 13: 1PM-4PM, Fort Reno (intersection of Nebraska Ave NW & Chesapeake St NW Washington, DC 20016) Fort Reno Trail launch event: "Top of the Town" Cultural Tourism DC trail, inaugural event, guided trail talks and living history programs. Parking on site.



Sun. November 14: 1 PM, Fort Stevens (13th and Quackenbos St NW, Washington, DC 20011): Don't Change Horses in the Middle of a Stream: Learn about the Battle of Fort Stevens and the role this played in the all-important 1864 presidential election. Parking on street.



Wed. November 17 11AM-2PM, Arlington House (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): see October 6 event.



Sat. November 20: 10 AM, Fort Chaplin (4648 Texas Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20019): Come on a ranger led nature hike. Parking on street.



Rear Admiral Andrew Hull Foote

(continued from *Sentinel* on page 1)

hazard of enemy fire.

At the end of the century Fort Washington was updated with Endicott Batteries. These were concrete buildings that housed new steel disappearing guns that could fire a 500 pound projectile over 10 miles. However, with the rapid advancement of naval artillery these batteries became obsolete.

In 1917 as America entered into World War I some of the Civil War forts were used for the training of American troops. Fort Foote saw warfare's increasingly deadly technology being used as the training ground for the US poison gas service.

At the outbreak of World War II the forts were used once again when anti-aircraft guns were placed around Washington at forts such as Fort Dupont. Fort Foote was used for training Officer



Sat. November 20, Noon, Fort Chaplin (4648 Texas Avenue Southeast, Washington, DC 20019): Join the Trail Ambassadors to work on the hiker Biker trail between Ft. Chaplin and Fort Mahan. Parking on street.



Sun. November 21: 1 PM, Fort Totten (4807 Fort Totten Dr NE, Washington, DC 20011): Designing the Defenses of Washington: Learn about the men behind the design and location of the forts, and the laborers who did the physical work to protect the city. Parking on street.



Sun. November 28: 1 PM, Fort Foote (8915 Fort Foote Rd, Fort Washington, MD 20744): Through the Ages: Learn about the continuing evolution of defense of the city of Washington from the War of 1812 to the present day. Parking lot on site.

December



Wed. December 1 11AM-2PM, Arlington House (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): see October 6 event.



Sat. December 4: 10 AM, Fort Marcy (George Washington Memorial Parkway, McLean, VA 22101): Ranger led nature hike at the site of Fort Marcy, The Civil War era fort protecting the chain bridge. Parking lot on site.



Sun. December 4: 11AM Fort DeRussy Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center see Nov. 6 event



Sun. December 4: 2PM Fort Stevens Meet at Rock Creek Nature Center see Nov. 6 event



Sun. December 5: 1 PM, Fort Greble (200 Elmira St. SE Washington, DC) Washingtonians in the Civil War. Explore the lives of the civilians around Washington who were directly affected by the War and the constructions of forts on their property. Parking on street.



Sun. December 12: 1 PM, Fort DeRussy (5200 Glover Road NW, Washington, DC, 20015): Follow the Footsteps of Civil War Soldiers. Learn about the more than 50 miles of roads built to connect the forts; including Military Road still present today! Parking lot on site.



Wed. December 15 11AM-2PM, Arlington House (Arlington National Cemetery Arlington, VA 22211): see October 6 event.



Sun. December 19: 1 PM, Fort Davis (Pennsylvania Ave and Fort Davis Dr SE, Washington, DC 20020): The Secession Winter of 1860, living history at Fort Davis and learn about the winter leading up to the Civil War and the difficult problems facing the nation with South Carolina leaving the Union on the Sesquicentennial. Parking on street.

Volunteer opportunity

Want to become a Trail Ambassador? contact Jermaine @ 202-426-7723



Have Ideas?

Alexa Viets

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Candidates, while across the river at Fort Hunt, top Nazis were interrogated. After World War II, these forts would be transferred to the National Park Service and saw their last use in seacoast defense, having succeeded in preventing any direct attack on the nation's capital since 1809.